

STRENGTHENING CONNECTIONS: Challenging Conversations to Enhance School Climate
Hilton DoubleTree Richmond-Midlothian

DAY ONE

November 29, 2016

7:30 AM – 8:30 AM Coffee, Registration, and Participant Check-in

8:30 AM – 9:00 AM Welcome and Introductions

Teresa P. Gooch, Division Director, Law Enforcement and Security Services, Department of Criminal Justice Services

The Honorable Brian Moran, Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security, Commonwealth of Virginia

The Honorable Dietra Trent, Secretary of Education, Commonwealth of Virginia

9:00 AM – 9:20 AM Statewide Perspectives on Keeping Kids in Classrooms, and Out of Courtrooms

Kami Patrizio, Ed.D., Assistant Professor, Virginia Tech

This presentation will highlight research findings based on data from the Departments of Criminal Justice Services, Juvenile Justice, and Education. Researchers will present detailed results on referrals of students to law enforcement by the schools, including what influences their involvement in the criminal justice system.

9:20 AM – 10:30 AM You Don't Know Me Until You Know Me

Michael Fowlin, Ed.D., Morristown, NJ

This is a one-person show that deals with the issues of race, discrimination, violence prevention, personal identity, suicide, gender equity, homophobia, and the emotional pain felt by special education children. In a gripping, fast paced performance, Michael Fowlin slips into and out of nine characters, both male and female, who "share their stories." They share their stories in an often humorous, but at times heartbreaking, manner.

10:30 AM – 10:45 AM BREAK

10:45 AM – 12:00 PM Disciplined Too Young & Too Often: Understanding the School-To-Prison Pipeline

Nubia Peña, Training & Prevention Education Specialist, UCASA

Across the country, school systems are shutting the doors of academic opportunity and funneling children into the juvenile and criminal justice systems by using overly harsh discipline practices and law enforcement to address student misbehavior. Anti-sexual violence advocates and community partners must be aware of current issues that increase a youth's susceptibility to becoming a perpetrator in order to create innovative and relevant ways of engaging with targeted youth. This presentation will provide an overview of the pipeline and the various intersections of vulnerability that increase a child's risk of victimization. In addition, advocates will be encouraged to get involved in mitigating STPP issues to increase protective factors within schools by addressing policy change and reform.

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM LUNCH

1:00 PM – 1:30 PM Strengthening Connections at a State Level to Enhance Local School Environments

JoAnn Burkholder, Director, Office of Student Services, Virginia Department of Education

Donna Michaelis, Manager, Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety, Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services

Data shows that a strong school climate is instrumental in creating a great learning environment and a safe place for teaching and learning. What factors create a great school environment? What resources, trainings, and initiatives are in place at the state level to help eliminate the barriers to a strong school climate and support schools in strengthening connections with staff and students?

1:30 PM – 4:30 PM Paper Tigers: A Facilitated Discussion on Adverse Childhood Experiences

Jeanine Harper, Executive Director of SCAN

Fred Orelove, TICN Trauma-Informed Schools Committee Co-Chair

More than two decades ago, two respected researchers, clinical physician Dr. Vincent Felitti and CDC epidemiologist Robert Anda, published the game-changing Adverse Childhood Experiences Study. It revealed a troubling but irrefutable phenomenon: the more traumatic experiences the respondents had as children (such as physical and emotional abuse and neglect), the more likely they were to develop health problems later in life—problems such as cancer, heart disease, and high blood pressure. To complicate matters, there was also a troubling correlation between adverse childhood experiences and prevalence of drug and alcohol abuse, unprotected sex, and poor diet. The results of the study painted a staggering portrait of the price our children are paying for growing up in unsafe environments, all the while adding fuel to the fire of some of society's greatest challenges. However, this very same study contains the seed of hope: all of the above-mentioned risk factors—behavioral as well as physiological—can be offset by the presence of one dependable and caring adult. That person doesn't need to be the mother or the father or even a close or distant relative. More often than not, that stable, caring adult is a teacher. It is here, at the crossroads of at-risk teens and trauma-informed care, that Paper Tigers takes root. Set within and around the campus of Lincoln Alternative High School in the rural community of Walla Walla, Washington, Paper Tigers asks the following questions: What does it mean to be a trauma-informed school? And how do you educate teens whose childhood experiences have left them with brains and bodies ill-suited to learn? Join us for a screening of the movie and facilitated discussion.

DAY TWO

November 30, 2016

7:30 AM – 8:30 AM Coffee, Registration, and Participant Check-in

8:30 AM – 11:30 AM 5 Things You Need to Know About Kids

Jim Harris, LICSW, Ed.D., Motivational Speaker, Child Development Specialist, Proctorville, OH

Get ready to laugh and learn as Jim brings some of the most important developmental principles alive with his down to earth presentation style. Jim will focus on some of the common misconceptions people have about children and talk about how they affect our ability to intervene effectively. He will pay specific attention to the neurological connection between adults and youth, the error in simple answers to behavioral problems, and power of relationships as an intervention.

11:30 AM - 1:00 PM LUNCH and TAKE IT HOME: RESOURCES FOR IMPLEMENTATION

1:00 PM – 2:15 PM 5 More Things You Need to Know About Kids

Jim Harris, LICSW, Ed.D., Motivational Speaker, Child Development Specialist, Proctorville, OH
Are you ready for more? In this session Jim builds on the content from his keynote address to help you better understand what you can do to support the development of youth. Jim will focus specifically on issues related to behavior as communication, setting boundaries, and developing self-regulation skills in youth.

2:15 PM WRAP UP